(Rupees in Crores)

year	Total No. of Tourists arrived	Total Foreign Exchange earned
1998	2,35,8629	11950.78
1999	2,48,1928	13041.81

The country-wise tourist arrivals for 1998 and 1999 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 191, Annexure No. 32]

(d) The Rules governing Tourist Charter Flights are Contained in the Guidelines issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 191, Annexure No. 32]

State of the Art Exchanges in Faridabad and Ghaziabad

*340. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in The Economic Times dated 20th November, 2000, captioned "Gurgaon Telecom Commission's new Exchanges";

(b) by when such state of the Art Exchanges will be made available to Faridabad and Ghaziabad;

(c) the reasons for giving preference to Gurgaon in providing the exchange; and

(d) in what manner the exchange is different from the old one?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in The Economic Times dated 20th November, 2000 captioned "Gurgaon Telecom Commission's new Exchanges".

Modularly expandable state-of-the-art electronic exchanges which have been provided in Gurgaon are already operational in Faridabad and Ghaziabad. These exchanges called Remote Switching Units (RSUs) are invariably connected to their parent exchanges by optical fibre cables.

The RSUs are the part of main exchanges except that they are located away from the main exchanges and are connected to them by optical fibre cables. This arrangement provides fault-free service due to reduction in length of underground copper cables in subscriber's loop.